



St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

2012 Annual Report
April 2013

Soil Stewardship Week
April 28th - May 5th

2012 Cooperator of the Year

Donald Knott

The St. Mary's Soil Conservation District's 2012 Cooperator of the Year Award goes to Donald Knott and family of Leonardtown. Donald and his wife Donna, own and lease approximately 110 acres of farmland in the Medley's Neck area of St. Mary's County, where they run a 20 head beef cattle operation. Donald has 12 acres of pasture and 6 acres of hay for the cattle, and also works 59 acres of cropland where he utilizes a continuous no-till 2 year rotation of corn, small grain, and soybeans. In addition to his crop management practices of continuous no-till and crop rotation, Donald has a Soil Conservation District developed prescribed grazing plan for his pasture acres that prevents overgrazing, maximizes forage production, maintains plant vigor, protects the soil from erosion, and improves water quality.

In 2011 Donald contacted the District for assistance with some potential erosion and water quality issues that he felt needed to be addressed on the farm. With planning and technical assistance from the District, Donald applied for Maryland Agricultural Cost Share funds to install two (2) grass waterways totaling 570 feet, 2020 feet of fencing along a stream, a livestock water well and one (1) watering facility. All of these cost shared bmps were installed in 2012.



Presentation of plaque and farm sign at cooperators dinner meeting held February 22, 2013



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Special points of interest:

- 2012 Cooperator of the Year
- District Has New No-Till Drill
- New District Staff - Luke Mudd and Justin Russell
- Regional Nutrient Management Specialist - Weylin Anderson
- CBWI Sign Up
- New Nutrient Management Regulations



District History and Background

The St. Mary's Soil Conservation District is a political subunit of state government which was created on November 14, 1941. The legal charter was issued by the state of Maryland on January 5, 1942.

The District is governed by a board of supervisors who are local county residents. Members are appointed to five (5) year terms by the State Soil Conservation Committee, with recommendations from the County Commissioners, Farm Bureau, and Cooperative Extension Service. There are five voting members, one non-voting member and three associate members. These supervisors regularly attend meetings to keep



informed on local, state and national issues, which could have an impact on farmers, landowners and residents within our area. The District's technical staff is provided by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Maryland Department of Agriculture and from the District itself.

Each year the District prepares detailed budget requests for administrative and operating funds from MDA and St. Mary's County to meet its goals and objectives. In calendar year 2012 the District received operating funds of \$67,703 from the county and \$32,466 from MDA. Additional support provided by MDA and NRCS is in the form of staff and cost share support for best management practices installed. In 2012 support received totaled \$415,095 for staff and \$618,724 in cost share monies.



2012 District Highlights

- ◆ Held twelve (12) monthly meetings, which are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month and are open to the public.
- ◆ Reviewed Memorandums of Understanding between the District and cooperating agencies at regular Board Meetings
- ◆ Attended the Winter and Summer Maryland Association of Conservation Districts (MASCD) Meetings
- ◆ Attended quarterly MASCD Board of Directors Meetings
- ◆ Maintained membership in state and national soil conservation district associations
- ◆ Cooperate with Maryland Department of the Environment on the local sediment control program
- ◆ Supervisor Robert Jarboe and District Manager Bruce Young serve on the Southern Maryland RC&D Board
- ◆ Member of the county's Technical Evaluation Committee for site and subdivision approval
- ◆ Advisory member of St. Mary's County Agriculture, Seafood, & Forestry Board
- ◆ Ed Dean,, Tom Koviak, and Mike Russell are certified as Nutrient Management Consultants by the MDA
- ◆ Developed a workload analysis and a plan of operations for fiscal year 2012
- ◆ Maintained a list of contractors that do conservation work
- ◆ Reviewed and approved 32 forest harvest erosion and sediment control plans
- ◆ Assisted landowners in making determinations for acceptance into Agricultural Land Preservation Districts
- ◆ Attended Southern Maryland Dinner Meeting for Area 2 Soil Conservation Districts
- ◆ District staff are members of the State Envirothon Committee
- ◆ Bruce Young is a representative on the Maryland Cost Share Technical Advisory Committee
- ◆ Bruce Young is the Maryland representative on the Enhanced Erosion & Sediment Control Expert Panel
- ◆ Participated on the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Technical Review Committee
- ◆ Member of MASCD Endowment Committee
- ◆ Member of the local WIP II team
- ◆ Member of St. Mary's River Watershed Neighborhood Rewards Committee



2012 District Accomplishments

Agricultural Accomplishments

Waste Storage Structure	1	
Winter Cover Crop	65	8851 acres
Critical Area Planting	3	0.5 acres
Diversion	1	220 acres
Sediment Control Pond	4	5 acres
Fencing	4	16114 feet
Livestock Fencing (functional equivalent)	3	1928 feet
Filter Strip	1	30.1 acres
Prescribed Forestry	1	11 acres
Grassed Waterway	8	1.2 acres
Forage Harvest Management	17	361 acres
Pasture & Hay Planting	11	104.7 acres
Prescribed Grazing	8	181.7 acres
Roof Runoff Structure	3	3.0 no
Barnyard Runoff Control (functional equiv)	2	3.0 no
Access Road	1	2100 feet
Heavy Use Area Protection	7	14 acres
Watering Facility	3	4 no
Watering Facility (functional equivalent)	1	6 no
Waste Utilization	3	46.4 acres
Water Well	1	1 no
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	1	20 acres
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	2	159 acres
Shallow Water Development	2	7.2 acres
Forest Stand Improvement	14	709 acres
Stream Crossing	1	1



Urban Accomplishments

Approved Plans less than 1/2 ac	435
Approved Plans greater than 1/2 ac	268
TEC Reviews	72
Site Inspections	39
Green Card Certifications Issued	160
Pre-Construction Meetings	112



Outreach & Education

- ◇ 222 people attended the annual cooperators' dinner meeting.
- ◇ Met with congressional delegates concerning legislation that would affect St. Mary's County
- ◇ Observed soil stewardship week by distributing 1500 Soil and Water Conservation Society's environmental activity books to public and parochial schools. Topic was "Soil to Spoon"
- ◇ *Sponsored and coordinated the county envirothon program. Three (3) public and one (1) private high school participated. County winner competed at the State Envirothon in Washington County. Team placed 3rd at MD Envirothon.*



- ◇ Participated in the MASCD Coloring & Poster Contest. Presented cash awards to the top three winners in each category
- ◇ Promoted the use of a manure spreader purchased with grant funds from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.
- ◇ Participated in Town of Leonardtown Christmas Tree Lighting activities
- ◇ Cooperated with the Extension Service in the development of Nutrient Management Plans
- ◇ Sponsored University of Maryland Soil Judging Team
- ◇ Had information booth at St. Mary's County Fair in September
- ◇ Member of the Mentoring Program for high school students at the Forrest

- ◇ Sponsor of the Southern Maryland Crops Conference
- ◇ Sponsored the St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair
- ◇ Participated in the STEM Field Day



- ◇ *Approved by MDE to teach the Responsible Personnel in Erosion and Sediment Control "Green Card" Class. Conducted 3 classes for 160 people*

- ◇ Career and Technology Center
- ◇ Provided information on critical area issues at the St. Mary's County Board of Appeals retreat
- ◇ Attended Farm Bureau Legislation Dinner
- ◇ Held an Equine Seminar attended by 25 horse owners
- ◇ Attended Southern Maryland Rural Business Forum
- ◇ Participated in Town of Leonardtown Earth Day Activities
- ◇ Participated in the Annual Quality Review
- ◇ Held five (5) staff meetings throughout the year
- ◇ Participated in the WIP II presentation to the St. Mary's County Commissioners

- ◇ Retain records of approved sewage sludge permits in the District office
- ◇ Promote conservation tillage through the lease of the District owned no-till drills
- ◇ Published news articles in the local paper showcasing District programs and accomplishments
- ◇ Actively promoted and assisted landowners in applying for MACS, CBWI, and EQIP cost-share
- ◇ Participated in the Farm to School Day



- ◇ *Sponsor of St. Mary's County Commissioners Agriculture tour of St. Mary's farms*



Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Coloring & Poster Contests

Coloring Contest

Class A (K – 1st Grades)

- 1st - Nyjah Merritt, Benjamin Banneker Elementary
- 2nd - Savannah Smith, Hollywood Elementary
- 3rd - Alexander Wood, Park Hall Elementary

Class B (2nd-3rd Grades)

- 1st - Alyssa Said, White Marsh Elementary
- 2nd - Brandon Davis, LM Dent Elementary
- 3rd - Reagan Morris, Little Flower School

Class C (4th-5th Grades)

- 1st - Elaina Guy, Benjamin Banneker Elementary
- 2nd - Caitlin Bird, Benjamin Banneker Elementary
- 3rd - Kayla Taylor, Leonardtown Elementary



Each year the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District sponsors a coloring contest for Kindergarten through fifth grade. The District awards cash prizes for first, second, and third place drawings in each of three classes. The pictures are judged on neatness, attention to detail, and how well directions are followed. The first place winners in each class are then forwarded to the MASCD state contest to be judged against the winners from the other Maryland Districts.

*Congratulations to all our winners!
We are happy to report that Alyssa Said and Elaina Guy also won 1st place at the state competition*

Poster Contest



The theme for 2012 poster contest was "Soil to Spoon". Students in grades K-12 were given the theme and had to develop a poster depicting what the theme meant to them. Posters were received by the District and judged based on the conservation message, visual effectiveness, originality,

Category K – I

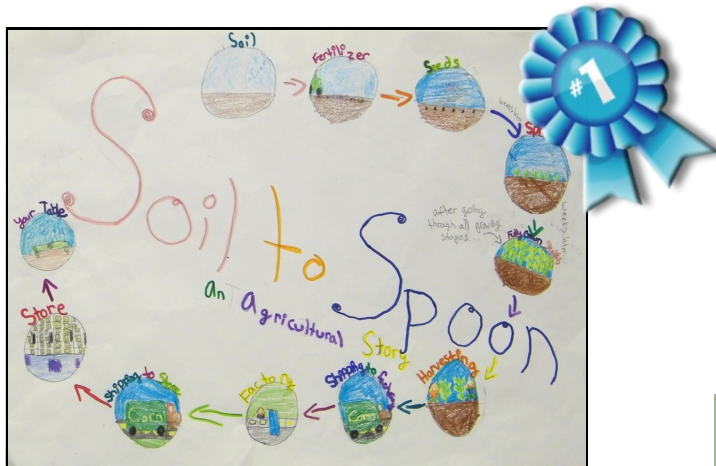
- 1st - Danielle M. Windsor, White Marsh Elementary

Category 2-3

- 1st - Alyssa Said, White Marsh Elementary

Category 4-6

- 1st - Juliana L. Geyer, Lexington Park Elementary



*Congratulations to all our winners!
We are happy to report that Danielle Windsor also won 1st place at the state competition*



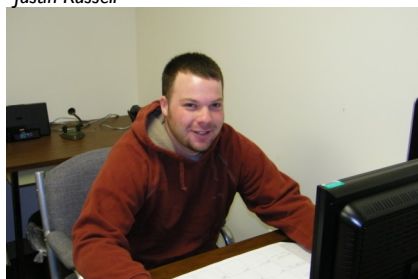
District Hires New Staff

The District is pleased to introduce you to our two new employees. Luke Mudd, a Charles County native, manages a small family farm in LaPlata, Maryland. Luke was hired through a grant from the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund in September 2012. While working as a technician in the District Office, he applied for and was selected to fill, a newly created Maryland Department of Agriculture Conservation Associate position in the District. Luke attended Ferrum College majoring in agriculture and with a minor in business. He is married and has a one year old daughter. You may have already met Luke while he worked as a contract employee with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as a field assistant/crop adjuster.



Luke Mudd

Justin Russell



With Luke accepting the MDA position, that left the grant position vacant, which we were able to fill by hiring Justin Russell. Justin is currently working on Associate of Science in Engineering degree from the College of Southern Maryland, which will be completed in May. Justin has completed 15 credit hours of computer aided drafting and design (AutoCAD) course work, as part of his curriculum, which is a huge help in his position. Justin has been involved with agriculture his whole life, and is a partner with his father in a 850 acre grain and hay production operation.

Justin's hobbies include hunting, fishing, and visiting with other farmers and friends. He is also a Young Farmer member of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau.

Stop by the office and welcome Luke and Justin or give them a call and have them come out to your farm to evaluate whether some District programs may assist with your farming operation.

Equipment Rental Program



6 Ft Frontier Overseeder
Purchased September 2010
\$25/day \$10/ac SMADC



7 Ft Great Plains No-Till Drill
Purchased September 2010
\$25/day \$10/ac SMADC



10 Ft John Deere No-Till Drill
Purchased December 2012
\$25/day \$10/ac SMADC



12 ft Great Plains Turbo Till
Purchased September 2010
\$25/day \$10/ac SMADC



16ft Gehl Manure Spreader
Purchased December 2000
\$25/day \$10/ac



Shaver Post Driver
Purchased September 2010
\$150/day SMADC

Purpose of rental program

- ⇒ Promote the use of conservation tillage equipment
- ⇒ Economical approach for all producers to have access to equipment
- ⇒ Minimize sediment and nutrient transport

For rental information contact the District at 301-475-8402 ext 3 or visit our website at www.stmarysscd.com.

The St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Farm Equipment Rental Program is made possible by grants from the the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC).



Regional Nutrient Management Specialist



Hello, from the Maryland Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management corner of the St. Mary's County Soil Conservation District. My name is Weylin Anderson - Nutrient Management Specialist for Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince

George's, and St. Mary's Counties. I moved to this office in December of 2011. Time flies when you are having fun!

One of my responsibilities is to ensure that farmers are implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) and, subsequently, filing their Annual Implementation Report (AIR) by March 1st. The AIR informs the MDA of your yearly activities; it also self certifies that you have a current NMP. This information provides a great way for me to further assist those who may desire it. Currently, there are still 64 operators in Southern Maryland that need to submit their AIR to the Maryland Department of Agriculture. I look forward to hearing from each of you.

If you have any questions feel free to call (301) 475-8402, (x 122). Have fun this spring!

Sign Up Underway for Chesapeake Bay

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service announced today that Maryland farmers can now apply for funds to implement conservation practices under the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI). First authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, CBWI was recently extended until September 30, 2013, under the Taxpayer Relief Act.

Eligible producers operating in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed can sign up for specific practices under the CBWI and receive additional consideration in the ranking process. While we accept applications throughout the year, it is important to remember that funding selections are made at specific times. For CBWI, those dates are **March 15, April 19, and May 17.**

These funds will be used to provide technical and financial assistance to farmers to accelerate efforts to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff and

improve water quality within the Bay. CBWI addresses animal waste, cropland and pastureland. NRCS will administer the initiative as part of its Environmental Quality Incentives Program.



Vallandingham Ag
Chemical Building

New Nutrient Management Regulations

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's (MDA) revised nutrient management regulations took effect October 15, 2012 and are being implemented in stages over the next several years. Following are some of the new requirements along with corresponding deadlines. A full list of the new regulations may be found at www.mda.maryland.gov and click on nutrient management.

Effective Immediately:

- ⇒ A nutrient management plan (NMP) developed prior to October 15, 2012 will need to be updated to address new regulatory requirements when it expires
- ⇒ Winter application (November 16 - March 1) of chemical fertilizer is prohibited. Exceptions exist for green-up of perennial forage crops, small grains, and greenhouses

Beginning Spring 2013

- ⇒ Manure, biosolids, and other organic nutrient sources must be injected or incorporated into the soil within 48 hours of application. Certain exceptions do exist.

Beginning Fall 2013

- ⇒ Fall application of nitrogen is prohibited on small grains if a fall nitrate test indicates levels greater than 10 ppm for wheat or 15 ppm for barley
- ⇒ Cover crops must be planted when organic nutrient sources are applied in the fall
- ⇒ Fields that have a Fertility Index Value (FIV) of 150 or greater are required to use the new Phosphorous Management Tool to determine phosphorous rates for plans developed after July 1, 2013

Beginning January 1, 2012

- ⇒ 35 foot setbacks are required for fertilizer applications adjacent to surface waters and streams
- ⇒ 10 foot setbacks are required for "directed" application methods such as directed spray or injection
- ⇒ No crop plants may be grown on the 10 foot setback area with the exception of pasture and hay
- ⇒ Livestock access to streams and certain surface waters is restricted by a minimum of 10 feet

Beginning July 1, 2016

- ⇒ Nutrient applications are prohibited between November 1 and March 1 for Easter Shore farmers and between November 15 and March 1 for Western Shore farmers. This requirement applies to farmers with 50 or more animal units (1 animal unit equals 1,000 pounds of live animal weight)

Beginning March 1, 2020

- ⇒ Farmers with fewer than 50 animal units are prohibited from applying nutrients between November 1 and March 1 on the Easter Shore and between November 15 and March 1 on the Western Shore.



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Suite B
Leonardtown, MD 20650
Phone: 301-475-8402 ext 3
Fax: 301-475-8391

Cover Crop Reminders

- ♦ Kill down can occur anytime after March 1st
- ♦ Must certify with SCD within two (2) weeks of kill down or suppression
- ♦ Must certify no later than June 1st

To:

All NRCS and SCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

www.stmarysscd.com

Cooperating Agencies, Supervisors, & Staff

STATE OF MARYLAND

Critical Area Commission
State Highway Administration
State Soil Conservation Committee
Department of Agriculture
Department of the Environment
Department of Natural Resources
University of MD Extension Service

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners
Department of Health
Board of Education
Metropolitan Commission
Dept. of Public Works & Transportation
Dept. of Land Use & Growth Management
Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Dept. of Economic and Community Develop.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Army Corps of Engineers
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Farm Service Agency

OTHERS

Leonardtown Commissioners
Historic St. Mary's City Commission
MD Assoc. of Soil Conservation Districts
Nat'l Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Southern Maryland RC&D
St. Mary's County Farm Bureau
St. Mary's County Fair Board

St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Staff

Bruce Young - District Manager
Jane Sanders - Erosion & Sediment Control Specialist
Haley Carter - Administrative Assistant
Justin Russell - 2010 Grant Technician

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Oliver Miranda - District Conservationist
Susan Davis - Resource Conservationist

Maryland Department of Agriculture Staff

Edward Dean - Conservation Planner
Tom Koviak - Conservation Planner
George Beavan - Conservation Planner
Mike Russell - Conservation Associate
Luke Mudd - Conservation Associate
Sara Lewis - Equine Planner
Sara Burbage - Secretary

The St. Mary's SCD Board of Supervisors

Stanley Boothe - Chairman
Alfred Knott - Vice-chairman
Donald Ocker - Treasurer
Luther Wolfe - Member
Robert Jarboe - Member
Bubby Norris - Associate Member
Bobby Cooper - Associate Member
Chris Jarboe - Associate Member
Ben Beale - Secretary